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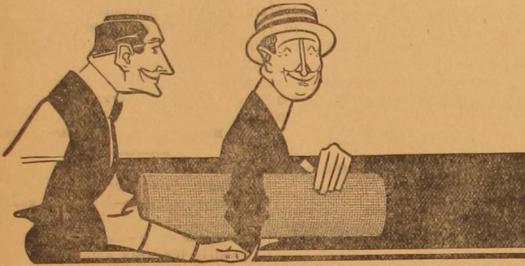
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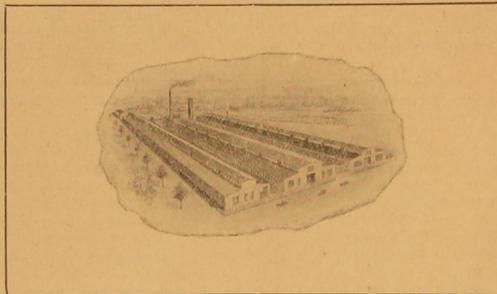
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FIRE DESTROYS DWIGHT INDUSTRY

Flames Swept Over Spencer's Hay Press Factory, Ruining Same and Entailing a Loss of \$80,000.00 With No Insurance

Monday evening about six o'clock while everything in the city was calm and peaceful the shriek of the whistle at the Hay Press Factory was heard which was something unusual at this hour in the evening and it was evident that there was trouble somewhere about the factory.

Several persons living nearby ran over to the factory to find out what the trouble was and upon entering the boiler room they found Ray Fitzpatrick, the night watchman, trying to extinguish a mass of flames which had originated from a can of gasoline that had exploded while he was filling a torch. Several attempts were then made in different ways to extinguish the flames but they were all unsuccessful.



cessful, and the heat and smoke became so strong they were compelled to leave the building.

The fire alarm was then sent in and the fire company responded quickly, but owing to low water pressure they were greatly handicapped, and the fire which was fanned by a strong south wind, ranged from one building to another, sweeping to destruction all that came in its path. The flames shot high into the air, illuminating the whole sky and making a most striking scenic effect, which could be seen for many miles around, while the firemen who could do nothing to check the flames worked hard to save the surrounding buildings. The elevator owned by Harrison Bros. caught fire several times but was quickly put out. Will Barth, one of the firemen, was overcome by heat and smoke while the company were fighting the fire and saving the records from the small office building of the factory, but soon regained consciousness and went back to resume his duties. In less than an hour the factory was a total ruin, en-

tailing a loss of over \$80,000 without any insurance.

The Spencer Hay Press Factory was founded in this city in the year of 1885, twenty-eight years ago, by Mr. J. A. Spencer, the inventor, and has been running ever since, being now well known all over the country. At first the factory was a small concern covering a small area of ground and employing only a few men, but as the manufactured goods became known it was necessary to build additional buildings, purchase new machinery and employ more men, and was at the present day the chief industry of this city.

During the past few years not only hay presses were manufactured there,

but large contracts were taken from the Roger Fan Company of Chicago to make various sized fans and a large amount of job work was done all of which was a paying proposition and was increasing all the time.

The factory consisted of three large buildings and an office building all of which were of a wood construction and covered a whole block.

About fifty men were employed in winter and a hundred in summer which was a great help to the town, and the ruining of same will not only be a big loss to Mr. Spencer but also to those who were thrown out of employment, and many others about town.

We present a small cut of the factory, the only one available, showing the works as they have appeared recently.

The members of the fire company, as usual, worked valiantly, but there seemed to be something wrong with the pressure or mains, and they did well to save the buildings near by.

After the Fire.

As a few days pass the people of Dwight not only more fully realize the fearful loss to Mr. Spencer, but also the loss to the people of Dwight as a whole. There were some thirty heads of families employed in the factory, besides others. The fire means a loss of about \$35,000 a year paid in wages to people of Dwight, which went into the channels of trade, and that means much to a city of this size.

The factory not only manufactured the best hay presses made, but did a large and paying jobbing business, and was increasing all the time.

Serious thought is now given to some business proposition along the lines of reorganizing and making a stock company. The business men of Dwight cannot afford to lose this enterprise and if called upon should subscribe liberally for the stock. There is no doubt but by so doing they would not only be instrumental in continuing a great enterprise but that the stock would be a paying investment.

There should be no question about something being done just as soon as matters can be properly adjusted.

Easter Services at M. E. Church.

There will be prayer meeting at 6:30 under auspices of the Epworth League. At 10:45 there will be a special program, consisting of music by the choir and a short address by the pastor. Epworth League will be held at the usual hour and the Easter sermon will be preached in the evening. The Choir will also have special music in the evening. The subject of the morning address will be "The Investment of Life," and the evening subject will be "Christ's Answer to Human Problems." All not worshipping elsewhere are invited to these services.

EASTER SERVICE.

At Congregational Church Sunday Morning at 10:45.

Prelude.
Doxology.
Invocation.
Gloria Patria..... Barnby
Anthem, "Day of Love Eternal".....
..... Bartlett
Solo, "As It Began to Dawn." Harker
MRS. H. SMITH.

Offertory—Spring Song..... Jores
Anthem, "Now is Christ Risen".....
..... J. A. West
Address..... Rev. F. F. Farrington
Hymn—133, 1st and last.
Benediction.
Response.

Postlude—Triumphal March.....
..... Paul Waelen

Parsimony Party.

A Parsimony Party was given by the B. B. B. Club at the home of Miss Ida Buehler, Tuesday, March 18. There was a good attendance and all enjoyed the novelty of the affair.

Society News.

Interests some people, but SOCIETY BRAND CLOTHES interests all good dressers. We are showing a fine line of these clothes this spring. Prices \$20 to \$27. Carey & Seabert.—Adv.

Entertainment and Basket Social.

An entertainment and basket social will be given at the Vickery school, five miles northwest of Dwight, on Thursday, April 3. Ladies please bring baskets.—Miss Alta Moloney, teacher.

Just received, a shipment of the Goldsmith-Woolard gift books; they make beautiful gifts for all seasons, and at very popular price, 50c. Ask to see them at C. M. Baker & Son's.—Adv.

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